

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for treating an organic exhaust gas comprising:

generating an organic exhaust gas containing a harmful substance;

providing a treating liquid;

contacting the organic exhaust gas with the treating liquid so as to dissolve the harmful substance into the treating liquid and provide treated exhaust gas; [[and]]

contacting bacteria with the treating liquid containing the harmful substance so that the harmful substance is biochemically degraded; and

contacting the treated exhaust gas with an active carbon so as to absorb the harmful substance remaining in the treated exhaust gas into the active carbon.

Claim 2 (Original): A method for treating an organic exhaust gas according to claim 1, wherein the bacteria are aquatic microbes.

Claim 3 (Original): A method for treating an organic exhaust gas according to claim 1, wherein the bacteria are selected from a group consisting of genus Zoogloea, genus Bacillus and genus Pseudomonas.

Claim 4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Original): A method for treating an organic exhaust gas according to claim 1, wherein the treating liquid is circulated only in a system for treating an organic exhaust gas comprising at least the gas-liquid contact process and the biochemical degradation process.

Claims 6-9 (Canceled)

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A method for eliminating a harmful substance from an organic exhaust gas, comprising:

- providing the organic exhaust gas including the harmful substance;
- contacting the organic exhaust gas with a treating liquid so as to dissolve the harmful substance into the treating liquid and provide treated exhaust gas;
- preparing carriers supporting bacteria; [[and]]
- contacting the carriers with the treating liquid containing the harmful substance so that the harmful substance is biochemically degraded by the bacteria supported by the carriers; and
- contacting the treated exhaust gas with an active carbon so as to absorb the harmful substance remaining in the treated exhaust gas into the active carbon.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A method for eliminating a harmful substance according to claim 10, wherein the bacteria are aquatic microbes.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): A method for eliminating a harmful substance according to claim 10, wherein the bacteria are selected from a group consisting of genus Zoogloea, genus Bacillus and genus Pseudomonas.

Claim 13 (Canceled)

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A method for eliminating a harmful substance according to claim 10, wherein the treating liquid is circulated only in a system for treating an organic exhaust gas comprising at least the gas-liquid contact process and the biochemical degradation process.

Claim 15 (New): A method for eliminating a harmful substance from an organic exhaust gas, comprising:

- providing the organic exhaust gas including the harmful substance;
- contacting the organic exhaust gas with a treating liquid so as to dissolve the harmful substance into the treating liquid and provide treated exhaust gas;
- providing a biological filter medium supporting bacteria, the biological filter medium having opposite first and second surfaces; and

supplying the treating liquid containing the harmful substance to the biological filter medium from opposite first and second directions to the opposite first and second surfaces, so that the harmful substance is biochemically degraded by the bacteria supported by the biological filter medium.

Claim 16 (New): A method for eliminating a harmful substance according to claim 15, wherein the bacteria are aquatic microbes.

Claim 17 (New): A method for eliminating a harmful substance according to claim 15, wherein the bacteria are selected from a group consisting of genus Zoogloea, genus Bacillus and genus Pseudomonas.

Claim 18 (New): A method for eliminating a harmful substance according to claim 15, further comprising contacting the treated exhaust gas with an active carbon so as to absorb the harmful substance remaining in the treated exhaust gas into the active carbon.

Claim 19 (New): A method for eliminating a harmful substance according to claim 15, wherein the treating liquid is circulated only in a system for treating an organic exhaust gas comprising at least the gas-liquid contact process and the biochemical degradation process.

Claim 20 (New): A method for eliminating a harmful substance according to claim 15, further comprising supplying bubbled air throughout the biological filter medium.

Claim 21 (New): A method for treating an organic exhaust gas according to claim 1, further comprising supplying bubbled air to the bacteria.

Claim 22 (New): A method for eliminating a harmful substance according to claim 10, further comprising supplying bubbled air to the carriers supporting the bacteria.